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Celebrity Buzz

No lovin' for Hewitt
pg 18

Ucluelet unveils new (celebrity?) shorefront trail

WILD PACIFIC One of the most popular hiking trails on Vancouver Island has unveiled a new, 250-metre stretch that meanders along the shore in front of a resort owned by Jason Priestley.

Ucluelet's Wild Pacific Trail, which cost $40,000 to create, winds through the old-growth forests of He-Tin-Kis Park to Terrace Beach.

It includes a 100-square-metre observation pad and features signs highlighting up to 5,000 years of local First Nations history.

Each year, tens of thousands of hikers visit the trail. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A worker inspects a damaged snowmobile yesterday that was brought down from the scene of the avalanche near Revelstoke, B.C., that killed two people and injured 31 others. More coverage, page 5.

Huge death toll averted

Two dead, no one missing, say RCMP after 200 caught in slide

What many feared would be one of the worst death tolls ever in the B.C. backcountry appears increasingly to be an almost miraculous story of survival.

RCMP say they have accounted for all those known to have been on a remote mountain when a deadly avalanche roared down upon them.

Two were killed and another 31 injured, including one critically, in the slide on Boulder Mountain, in the Monashee Mountains near Revelstoke Saturday afternoon, but as yesterday wore on, RCMP said they were increasingly optimistic that the death toll would not be as bad as once believed.

After searching for abandoned vehicles and canvassing area hotels, Cpl. Dan Moskaluk said there was nobody that RCMP know of left unaccounted for, and no new reports of missing people.

"All the persons we had on these lists of names have been accounted for and have been checked off the lists," Moskaluk told reporters.

"We're in a far different situation than we were just over 24 hours ago with a report of over 200 people being possibly affected by this slide. We're very fortunate, albeit though we do have two fatalities as a result of this incident."

A wall of snow washed down over a group of about 200 snowmobilers gathered for the annual Big Iron Shoot-Out, triggered by a small group "high-marking" on the mountain — a competition to see who could ride the furthest, leaving the highest mark.

There were fears the death toll could be in the dozens, and survivors have described a scene of chaos after the slide.

But Moskaluk said most of those participating in the event appear to have made it safely off the mountain. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman, unborn child killed in collision

ABBOTSFORD A pregnant woman and her unborn child were killed after she was struck by a car while waiting to cross a busy road in Abbotsford.

The woman, who was six-months pregnant, was waiting on an elevated median at South Fraser Way and Ware Street with her husband and her father at 1 p.m. Saturday when the three pedestrians were hit by a Honda Prelude that careened onto the medium after colliding with a Ford F150 pickup.

They were rushed to hospital, but the woman and her unborn child died. Her husband and father remain in hospital and are receiving treatment, Abbotsford police said.

Police said the initial collision between the Prelude and F150 resulted in a series of collisions involving five vehicles. A sixth car was damaged when it was struck by debris from the Prelude.

In a release, Abbotsford Const. Ian MacDonald said collision reconstructionists were at the scene gathering evidence. He said it would be some time before the cause of the collision was determined and released. METRO VANCOUVER

Entertainment pg 16

Corey Haim prescription, drug ring linked

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Local

Royal awards

Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, left, is in Vancouver this week to award the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to about 100 young British Columbians. The gold level certificate is the highest level that young Canadians can receive.

METRO VANCOUVER

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Former mayor takes a ride on the zipline

PARALYMPIC 2010Games

GREG DOWNS
for Metro Vancouver

One of the major attractions at Robson Square during the Olympics is back for the Paralympics.

And in spirit of the Games, former Vancouver mayor and Canada's Paralympic ambassador Sam Sullivan took the zipline for a test run yesterday during the filming of a segment of the Rick Mercer Report.

"I am a little nervous," said Sullivan before his ride. "I've got sherpas who are going to get me up the stairs, but I am looking forward to it."

"I think it's going to be a bit of a statement for the Paralympics ... disabled people can do this as well."
Former mayor Sam Sullivan

Bypassing the four-and-a-half-hour lineup, Sullivan said the zipline shows that disabled people are just as capable of taking part in the fun at Robson.

"I think it's going to be a bit of a statement for the Paralympics. Not only able-bodied people can do this, but disabled people can do this as well."

Enthusiastic fans waited in line for hours for a chance to ride the zipline, although the four-hour wait is still a considerable improvement over the eight-hour wait during the Olympics.

STIG NEILSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Comedian Rick Mercer, left, and former mayor Sam Sullivan ride the zipline across Robson Square yesterday.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Immigration Guidy Mamann on the poor performance of Ottawa's new 'Canadian Experience Class' at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, March 12
Lotto Max: 17, 18, 19, 21, 32, 40 & 49 Bonus 6
Extra: 14, 24, 82, 97
Saturday, March 13
Lotto 6/49: 3, 13, 15, 28, 41 & 47 Bonus 40
BC 49: 5, 7, 13, 16, 22 & 37 Bonus 26
Extra: 3, 25, 47, 84
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VANOC policy will pay out to luger's family

INSURANCE The family of a Georgian luger who died at the 2010 Winter Olympics will receive insurance money from the Vancouver organizing committee.

The committee had insurance policies for the 5,000 athletes and officials who were at the Games, as well as other members of the Olympic family.

The policy will pay out an undisclosed sum to Nodar Kumaritashvili's relatives, said VANOC CEO John Furlong.

Kumaritashvili, 21, died Feb. 12 on a training run at the Whistler Sliding Centre, a horrific crash that cast a pall over the first day of the Olympics and raised serious questions about whether the course was too dangerous.

The committee was required to have insurance policies to provide free health care for Olympic family members.

They decided to add coverage for accidental death or dismemberment to the policies, which also covered the return of Kumaritashvili's remains to Georgia.

Furlong said he is also trying to decide whether he'll be able to attend a memorial service for Kumaritashvili in Georgia later this month after receiving a letter from the family inviting him.

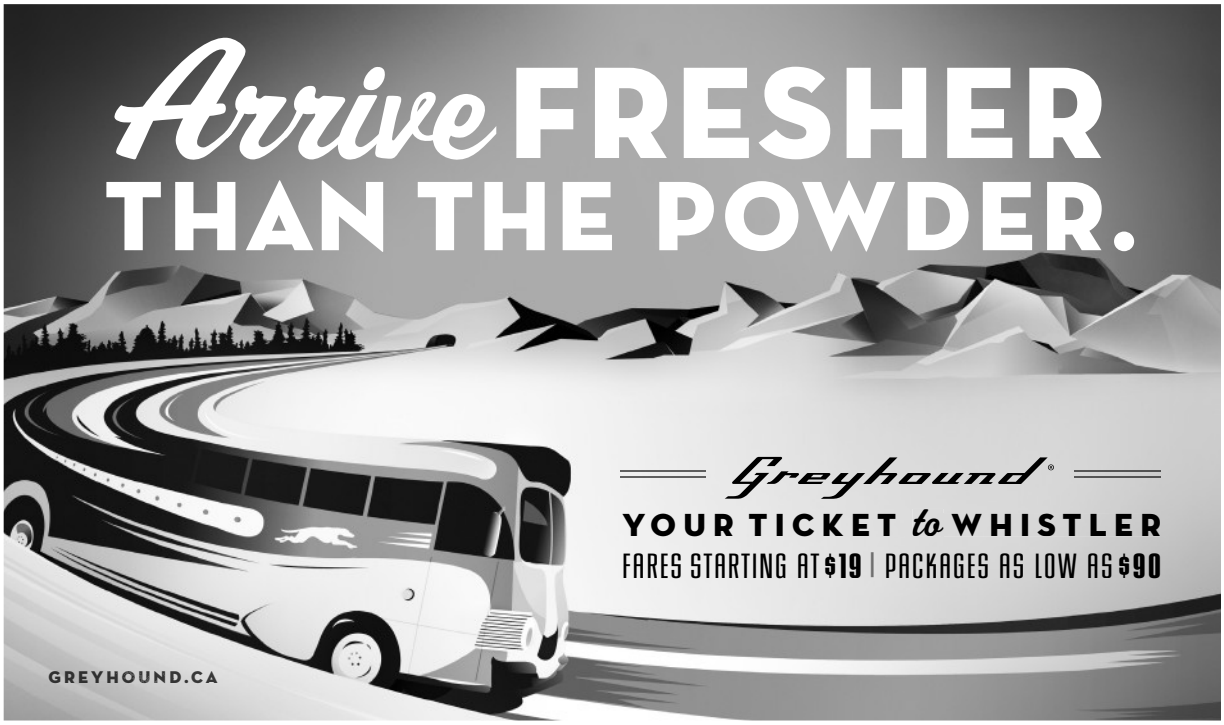
THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SENTENCED Two members of a local Hell's Angels gang have been sentenced to one year in jail for drug possession and trafficking after a $10-million RCMP investigation, cknw.com reports. Justice Peter Leask, however, said the men likely wouldn't have committed their crimes had it not been for undercover police.

SLAPPER ARRESTED Police have re-arrested a man who was convicted of randomly slapping women in downtown Vancouver last year after he breached the conditions of his probation order. Burnaby RCMP found Nicholas William Patterson, 44, near Canada Way and Willingdon Avenue on Saturday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES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Mayor to unveil neon sign
Vancouver's mayor, Gregor Robertson, will unveil a new 45-foot neon sign on the exterior of Chinatown Plaza tonight. The aim of the sign is to bring nightlife back to the area and encourage local businesses to follow suit. METRO VANCOUVER

Keep trams running: Official

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

With the False Creek streetcar trial coming to an end next week, one city councillor says she hopes the service will keep running and expand into a comprehensive citywide tram network.

Coun. Suzanne Anton said the city should do "everything in its power" to keep the cars — which are on loan from Belguim — in Vancouver.

"There is pretty much a universal desire to keep it," she said. "People want to ride a streetcar. They don't have many options and (this would provide) a convenient, reliable and frequent (mode of) transit."

The trams that connect the Athletes Village and Granville Island have been on loan for nearly two months and are set to return to Brussels on March 21.

Anton said she'd like to see the line extend to the Telus World Of Science — and by extension the SkyTrain — and new lines added along Arbutus Street, Broadway and 41st Avenue."

"We have a big financial interest in the success of the Athletes Village and knowing that a street car is running through there would really add to the marketability of the units."

She said $90 million would be needed to extend the track to Science World, buy five cars and build a works yard.

"That's the challenge — everything is about priorities and money," said Anton.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver Coun. Suzanne Anton at the Olympic Line's Cambie Street station yesterday.

Milestone

• On March 13, the temporary Olympic Line — which is free — carried its 500,000th passenger since starting on Jan. 21.

Check start times, alpine fans warned

PARALYMPIC 2010Games

GAMES Organizers of the Paralympics are warning people with tickets to alpine events to check vancouver2010.com to confirm start times.

Events could start 90 minutes earlier or later than originally planned. The forecasted weather at Whistler Creekside has forced VANOC to revise its alpine schedule through the Paralympic Games as each alpine discipline has its own technical and weather requirements.

"Spectators will still experience world-class athletes competing in a spectacular alpine competition venue and inspirational performances are guaranteed," said Tim Gayda, vice-president of sport with VANOC in a statement.

Technical events like slalom and giant slalom, which tolerate low visibility, will be held during the first part of the week. Speed events, like downhill and Super G, which need colder and clearer conditions, will be held later in the week.

For fans, it means their tickets are valid for the day purchased, but not necessarily for the discipline they wanted.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

EMPLOYMENT Construction jobs in the Lower Mainland continued to fall in February, declining 2.5 per cent from January, resulting in a cut of about 2,600 jobs. In Metro Vancouver, construction jobs were down 14.5 per cent in February compared to the same time last year.

DRUG BUST RCMP busted a sophisticated cocaine smuggling operation in Port Hardy last weekend. Two men, one from Victoria and one foreign national, were arrested after police seized a significant amount of cocaine at Port Hardy dock.

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U-Pass coming for all students: Province
The province has announced the impending arrival of a general University U-Pass for all B.C. students. Until now, only Langara, UBC, SFU and Capilano students have received rebated transit fare. NEWS1130.COM

Broadcast a plus: Sullivan

PARALYMPIC
2010 **Games**

CTV's decision to broadcast the Paralympic opening ceremonies live in British Columbia is a positive story for the Games, according to Sam Sullivan, Canada's Paralympic ambassador.

The media consortium's original plan to air the ceremony a day later was overturned due to high demand from British Columbians, something Sullivan sees as a plus for the Games.

"I think the TV managers were surprised by the kind of public interest in the Paralympics," said Sullivan. "That is a real powerful statement made by the public that they're very interested in the (Games)."

The change can even be seen in the streets, according to Sullivan, as people are starting to show more and more enthusiasm.

"I was just taking the Canada line, and a guy came running up to me and asked me who won the (sledge-hockey) game. When you get people on the street wanting to know who won the game, that shows we've really turned the corner."

He said the opening ceremonies were a great start.

"I was really pleased. And I was especially impressed by the crowd. (It was) such an enthusiastic, boisterous crowd, everybody was clearly loving it."

GREG DOWNS/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Paralympic torch is lit during the opening ceremonies at B.C. Place on Friday.

Why are some people living with disabilities struggling to survive?
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Ex-Delta director faces child-porn rap

CRIME A city employee in Delta has been charged with possessing and accessing child pornography.

Cleo Faus Gaudry, former director of engineering for the Corporation of Delta, was charged in provincial court in Surrey on Thursday, CTV reports.

Gaudry resigned the position last year after police searched his home. They seized computer equipment and technical hardware.

He is currently released from custody after posting $10,000. He is scheduled to appear in court on Friday.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

AWARDS Riese, a Vancouver-based sci-fi series about a woman fleeing from an evil sect with her trusty wolf, has been nominated for four Streamy awards, including best foreign web series, news1130.com reports. The series is being distributed via YouTube. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ontario mayor seeks bond against paper 5

The mayor of Walkerton, Ont., is trying to get a peace bond slapped on an area newspaper owner. Charlie Bagnato is targeting the Cargill Area News over articles critical of the mayor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

PM leaves Canadian moms short: Report

Federal cash for troubled pregnancies and newborns in Canada remains in short supply even as the Conservative government leads a global campaign to improve the health of mothers and children overseas.

A newly released report praises a national program to help high-risk pregnant women bear healthier babies — but notes the funding hasn't really budged in a decade.

The report echoes another analysis last year that found Ottawa consistently fails to spend the money it promises to fight fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, which leaves newborns with a lifetime of afflictions.

The report, covering the five-year period ending in 2009, found the projects have helped thousands of pregnant women to quit smoking and drinking, to eat better, to take vitamins and to breastfeed their newborns.

The result was many fewer premature births, better birth weights and generally healthier babies, all at significant savings for health-care budgets in more than 2,000 communities.

The reduction in the number of low-birth-weight infants alone saved $1.6 million in hospital costs, says the November 2009 study.

But the authors also note "the last upward adjustment to (program) funding dates back to 1999," and call on the government to "address funding stability."

Key recommendations and comments, however, are censored in the released version.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study

- The latest study, an evaluation of the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, examined some 330 projects that focus on women — poor, isolated, abused or addicted — who are likely to have unhealthy babies because of their own bad health or nutrition.

ScanLife

More immigration sets up political scrap for votes

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Avalanche prompts snowmobile debate

TRAGEDY For "sled-heads," events like the Big Iron Shoot-Out are a powerful draw into B.C.'s rugged backcountry, offering bragging rights as the main prize for participants on their high-powered snowmobiles.

But Saturday's deadly avalanche at the annual event near Revelstoke, B.C. — apparently triggered by daredevils climbing up the slope in hazardous conditions — has prompted debate even within the tight-knit snowmobiling world.

Even fellow sledders are asking whether the 200 odd people who were out on Boulder Mountain should have been there.

There were some heated exchanges on online snowmobiling forums, where users expressed frustration that avalanche warnings weren't heeded.

"Big Iron has a bad name already and now this," wrote one user on the website snowandmud.com.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An RCMP vehicle drives towards the area where a large avalanche struck Saturday killing two people and injuring 30 others near Revelstoke, B.C., yesterday.

Another called it "dumb" to have held the event when conditions were considered high risk for a slide.

"Knew this was going to happen," said the post. "Kinda pisses me off when people are making it sound like it wasn't preventable."

It's still not clear what exactly triggered the slide Saturday that killed at least two people, but witnesses say a small group were high-marking at the time — racing up the mountain in a competition to see who could leave the highest mark on the mountain.

The adrenaline-pumping contests have been blamed for previous avalanches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CLIMATE CHANGE When government funding for a foundation dedicated to climate research dries up at the end of the year, scientists say the aftershocks of its departure will be felt not only in Canada, but by researchers around the globe. The 2010 federal budget, unveiled this month, offered no new cash to the decade-old Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, which is worrying some in the international scientific community.

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U.S. consulate workers in Mexico can send families home over violence

The State Department is authorizing U.S. government employees at six U.S. consulates in northern Mexico to send their family members out of the area because of concerns about rising drug-related violence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Congressman confident health bill will pass

The Democrat's chief vote counter in the House says that right now there aren't enough votes to pass U.S. President Barack Obama's health-care overhaul. But Rep. James Clyburn, left, of South Carolina says he's confident that the legislation will pass. He says the White House and Democratic leaders in Congress have gotten to a point where there's a way to send the measure to the president's desk for his signature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celibacy vow, abuse not linked: Vatican

The Vatican yesterday denied that its celibacy rule for priests was the root cause of the clerical sex abuse scandal convulsing the church in Europe and again defended the Pope's handling of the crisis.

Suggestions that the celibacy rule was somehow responsible for the "deviant behaviour" of sexually abusive priests have swirled in recent days, with opinion pieces in German papers blaming it for fuelling abuse and Italian commentators questioning the rule.

Much of the furor was spurred by comments from one of the pope's closest advisers, Vienna archbishop Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, who called this week for an honest examination of issues like celibacy to root out the origins of abuse.

"Part of it is the question of celibacy, as well as the subject of character development. And part of it is a large portion of honesty, in the church but also in society," he wrote in the online edition of his diocesan newsletter. His office quickly stressed that Schoenborn wasn't calling into question priestly celibacy.

But Schoenborn has in the past shown himself receptive to arguments that a celibate priesthood is increasingly problematic for the church, mainly because it limits the number of men who seek ordination.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Initiative

- Last June, the Vatican was presented with a lay initiative signed by prominent Austrian Catholics calling for the celibacy rule to be abolished and for married men to be allowed to become priests.

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U.S. taking it slow on Europe nuclear withdrawal.
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CHRIS CORRADINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tree lies across a car at a home in Wantagh, N.Y., yesterday.

Winds, rain batter U.S. Northeast

WEATHER Utility crews pushed through fallen trees and windblown debris to reach downed power lines yesterday, working to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses as strong winds and heavy rain that wreaked havoc in parts of the Northeast pushed on into New England.

The storm, which battered parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut on Saturday, struck about two weeks after heavy snow and hurricane-force winds left more than a million customers in the Northeast in the dark.

More than a half-million customers lost electricity at the peak of Saturday's storm, and roughly 500,000 were waiting for power to be restored yesterday.

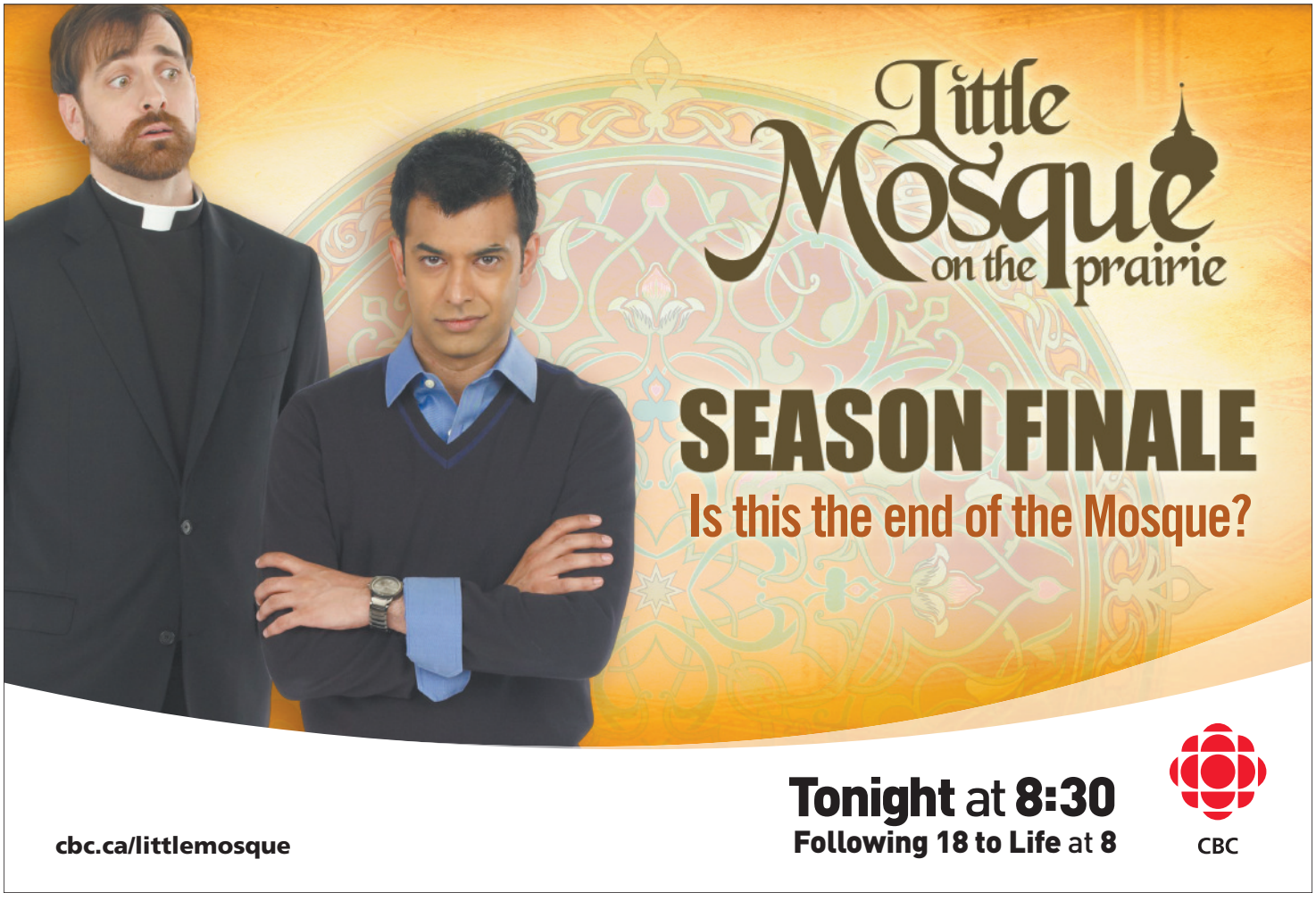
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FRANCE French voters scarred by the economic crisis dealt President Nicolas Sarkozy and his conservative leadership a stern blow yesterday by strongly favouring leftist candidates in regional elections, according to near-complete official results. With more than 96 per cent of votes counted, candidates from the Socialist and other leftist parties won 53.6 per cent of the overall vote, according to the Interior Ministry. Sarkozy's conservative UMP party and others on the right won 39.8 per cent.

SOMALIA A clan elder in Somalia says a fight over land rights between two rival clans has killed at least 15 people. Clan elder Abdulahi Bashir Jama says Saturday's fighting was triggered by long-standing hostilities over land ownership. The fighting took place in Amara village in the country's north, far from the capital of Mogadishu, where Islamist militants have been clashing with government troops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Taliban steps up Afghan attacks

The Taliban yesterday called their deadly bomb attacks on the southern city of Kandahar a warning to NATO's top general that the insurgents were ready for the war's next major offensive in their heartland.

The series of bombings that demolished buildings and killed dozens — including 10 people at a wedding — prompted the provincial governor to plead for more security in the area. Fearful residents said they had no confidence that either government or foreign troops can protect them.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the Saturday-night attacks proved the insurgents were still able to operate despite the buildup of Afghan and international troops in preparation for a push into Kandahar province.

A Taliban-linked website called the attacks in the south's largest city a "warning" to NATO's Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who has said coalition forces will target Kandahar later this year after driving the insurgents from a key stronghold in neighbouring Helmand province.

"Gen. McChrystal has said that soon they will start their operations, and now we have already started our operations," Ahmadi told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "With all the preparations they have taken, still they are not able to stop us." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT Britain's Prince Charles visits Poland today, a journey that includes a visit to a bison-filled woodland — Europe's last remaining primeval forest thanks to preservation efforts of kings and czars of centuries past. The British Embassy said the environmentally minded prince, along with his wife, Camilla, will visit a bison reserve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Airlines square off over Vancouver service

InTransit

Derek Moscato

dmoscato@yahoo.com

These should be the best of times for the aviation business in Vancouver. On the day after the conclusion of the Winter Olympics, our international airport successfully oversaw its highest volume of passengers ever. The Paralympics have helped to sustain some of that momentum into March.

Presumably, all of the air traffic that has flowed in and out of the city over the past month should have translated into a surge of new opportunities for Vancouver International Airport — bolstered capacity and perhaps even new routes and carriers.

But that hasn't always been the case. The last few years have actually been marked by a loss of flights for YVR. Take Singapore Airlines, which pulled flights out of Vancouver last year. Or Cathay Pacific, which trimmed its service to Hong Kong. Before that, Vancouver lost its direct air link to Osaka.

This is not good news — whether you work for the airport, are a frequent flyer, or work in industries such as tourism or trade. A vibrant international air hub is one of the key backbones of our economy.

At least one top-tier airline, Emirates Airlines, is trying to make inroads here, but it's getting the expected but troubling brush-off from our federal government.

On the web

- For all your transit news and service updates, check out our new transit page at metronews.ca

According to a study commissioned by the Dubai-based carrier, Canada stands to gain $480 million in annual economic benefits by approving its plan to introduce service to Vancouver and Calgary, and bolster its flights to Toronto. The plan would also create 2,800 new jobs across the country, according to the study.

The provincial government agrees. In a statement, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell said, "As a province and a country, we need to capitalize on services like those offered by Emirates Airline to realize our full economic potential."

The problem is, an agitated Air Canada does not agree. Last week in Vancouver, its CEO went so far as to call Emirates' proposal "the stuff of fairytales."

Emirates has since fired back — stating that consumers are the ultimate losers in this standoff, and that Air Canada enjoys an unfair advantage here.

It's time for Transport Canada to rise above this squabbling and do the right thing. Protectionism puts Canada in a negative light globally and will hurt B.C.'s economy. More airline competition is better for consumers, period.

Emirates Airlines should be allowed to start service in Vancouver immediately.

Free the skies, Ottawa.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Views

Friends, countrymen lend me your sheets

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

The toughest part of writing a weekly column is the "what the hell am I going to write about" syndrome. Usually, this involves staring for hours at a blank screen thinking, "Hmmm ... cellophane. Could I say something about cellophane?" This is not nearly as much fun as it sounds.

A good column topic is intriguing, timely and, most of all, not likely to illicit reader email with the subject line "Why don't you get a real job?"

But today finding a topic is easy. It's March 15. Which means it's the Ides of March. Which means it's also the International Association of Hash House Harriers' Roman Toga Race. This is a really big day.

Some readers may now be asking, "What's this Ides stuff?" "The Hash House who?" or "Why don't you get a real job?" (Mom, stop sending me these emails).

The Ides of March is the day Roman emperor Julius Caesar was stabbed to death by a group of his closest colleagues.

In modern times, the Ides of March is known for: 1. It being difficult to convince a politician to go for lunch; and 2. The Hash House Harriers' toga race.

The Hash House Harriers society began in 1938 when British soldiers decided they needed a physical fitness regime that would: a) help them get rid of their hangovers from the weekend before; and b) help them acquire a good thirst so they could hit the beer again.

The rules of harrier racing go: One person starts running. Everyone else tries to catch them. There is no designated finish line. Basically, the game ends when someone says, "Right then. Who's for a drink?"

On March 15, global Hash House Harrier societies gather in Rome, put on togas and run past the spot where Caesar was stabbed. Then they all go out for a drink. Their motto is, "I mean, why not?"

So, fellow citizens, let us, too, honour Caesar. Let us don bed sheets and runneth past city hall. Or maybe just hoist a glass with friends. Your choice.

Happy Ides of March!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Head of Canwest's publishing division stepping down

Dennis Skulsky is stepping down as head of the publishing division of Canwest Global Communications Corp. in what he described Friday as a "very personal decision," but he'll still be involved in the next step in the newspaper company's restructuring and sale. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	N.GAS	OIL	TSX
US 98.20¢	US $4.4	US $81.24	12,013.82
(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Dollar flirts with parity

The latest inflation data could move the Canadian dollar even closer to parity with the U.S. dollar this week after a strong employment report Friday sent the loonie surging.

The currency ended the week at 98.2 cents U.S. and during the course of Friday trading came within about a cent and a half of parity — its highest level since July 2008. The loonie hasn't been level with the greenback since May 2008.

The reason for the currency's latest runup was a better than expected Canadian employment report for February. Statistics Canada reported that 21,000 jobs were created last month, better than the 15,000 that had been expected by many economists. The unemployment rate fell to 8.2 per cent from 8.3 per cent.

The report served to further convince currency traders that the Bank of Canada will move to raise interest rates mid-year.

And pressure on the dollar could build at the end of this week when the February Consumer Price Index is released.

"If we get a surprisingly high reading on that front, then expectations of Bank of Canada interest rates hikes will just build incredibly higher than expected," said Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AbitibiBowater, union reach deal

PAPER A tentative deal has been reached between insolvent newspaper giant AbitibiBowater Inc. and the Quebec Federation of Labour. The deal, which was hammered out over nine days of negotiations, include wage concessions. It will affect some 1,000 workers at four pulp and paper mills across Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brampton Brick trims loss in its fourth quarter

CONSTRUCTION Brampton Brick Ltd., one of Canada's largest producers of bricks for construction, reduced its loss in the fourth quarter, but not by enough to improve results for the full year. The company said Friday it lost $2.3 million or 21 cents in the three months ended Dec. 31, trimming its year-ago loss of $9.9 million or 91 cents a share by 80 per cent. The 2008 loss included a $6.7-million goodwill impairment charge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tests fail to find Toyota Prius' faults

AUTOS A memo drafted for a congressional panel says that investigators with Toyota Motor Corp. and the federal government were unable to make a Prius speed out of control as its owner said it did on a California freeway, casting doubt on the driver's story.

The draft memo said the experts who examined and test drove the car could not replicate the problems reportedly encountered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple rewards stand-in chief

BONUS Apple Inc. is giving its chief operating officer a $5-million US bonus for "outstanding performance" running the company while CEO Steve Jobs was on medical leave.

Timothy Cook, 49, will also receive 75,000 restricted stock units scheduled to vest in 2011 and 2012.

Jobs, 55, limits his salary to $1 per year, which leaves Cook the company's highest-paid executive. In 2009, Cook received an $800,400 salary — $800,000 in non-stock incentive compensation; and about $40,900 in company matches to his retirement account, life insurance premiums and cash for unused vacation days.

The COO also holds 13,741 shares of Apple stock and 500,000 additional restricted stock options.

Cook took the company reins when Jobs, a pancreatic cancer survivor, went on medical leave from January through June 2009.

It was Cook's second stint leading Apple. Cook, who joined Apple in 1998, ran the Cupertino, Calif.-based company for two months in 2004 while Jobs recovered from surgery for pancreatic cancer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timothy Cook

NASL coming to Ottawa?

Ottawa developer Neil Malhotra tells our footie columnist of his plans to bring an NASL franchise to the city. The revelation is part of a bigger plan by the NASL to bring as many as six more Canadian teams into the league after 2012. Read Ben Rycroft's column at metronews.ca/justsoccer. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

Beckham to miss World Cup: Source

David Beckham will miss the World Cup and most, if not all, of the Los Angeles Galaxy season after tearing his left Achilles tendon yesterday while playing for AC Milan. His international career for England is all but over. It remains to be seen how much he'll have left for the Galaxy and Major League Soccer. "He will miss the World Cup for sure," a person familiar with the injury told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Three times the joy for Canada

Make it three medals for Canada at the Paralympic Games.

Colette Bourgonje captured Canada's first medal yesterday, then Viviane Forest and Josh Dueck added to the country's medal haul shortly after.

Bourgonje, from Saskatoon, won silver in the women's 10-kilometre sit-ski cross-country, finishing the race in 31 minutes 49.8 seconds to become the first Canadian to win a Paralympic medal on home turf.

"Wow, I'm shocked and I can't believe it," said the 48-year-old Paralympian. "Age is nothing, attitude is everything and I lived by that today."

"Today, Colette (Bourgonje) has become part of the rich history of exceptional accomplishments by Canadian athletes. She is an inspiration to all Canadians."
Prime Minister Steven Harper

The only Canadian athlete to have competed in all five Paralympic Winter Games to go along with four Summer Paralympics, Bourgonje was on pace to win gold before crashing on the second of three laps.

"I am still racing because I wanted to compete at a Paralympics in Canada and I'm just so proud to have done this in front of all Canadians," she said. "I share this medal with the entire country."

Liudmila Vauchok of Belarus won in 30:52.9 while Olena Iurkovska of Ukraine was third in 32:43.5.

Bourgonje received congratulations from Prime Minister Stephen Harper following her win. "Today, Colette has become part of the rich history of exceptional accomplishments by Canadian athletes. She is an inspiration to all Canadians."

Forest, from Edmonton, won silver in the women's slalom for the visually impaired. She and her guide Lindsay Debou of Whistler, B.C., finished in 2:01.45. Austria's Sabine Gasteiger won the race in 2:00.56.

Forest, 30, winced in pain after the race from a groin she pulled in training two weeks ago. The hurt didn't diminish the joy she felt over winning her first Winter Paralympic medal.

"I have a leg that is pretty sore so I tried to manage my energy and not bounce too much around," said Forest, who also won gold medals in goalball at the 2000 and 2004 Summer Paralympics.

"I tried not to focus on the pain and just make my way down. I was afraid of the last section. I had no gas, I was in so much pain. I was afraid to miss a gate and not finish. But it did go well. That's what matters."

Josh Dueck of Vernon, B.C., won a silver medal in men's slalom sit-ski. Dueck was fourth after the first run but battled back in the second for a time of 1:46.29. Germany's Martin Braxenthaler won in 1:41.63.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE MUNRO FAMILY
37A-B-C

First period goals enough for Canucks to collect win

NHL RESULTS

Calgary 1 Vancouver 3

NHL Daniel and Henrik Sedin and Ryan Kesler scored first-period goals last night as the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Calgary Flames 3-1.

The streaking Canucks, who are 6-1-1 since the Olympic break, maintained their lead atop the Northwest Division while the Flames' playoff drive hit a speed bump.

Defenceman Robyn Regehr denied goalie Roberto Luongo his fifth shutout of the season with 8:10 remaining when his point shot found the net with Curtis Glencross screening in front.

Luongo finished with 32 saves as the Flames, who pulled their goalie for the last 1:50, failed to score on five power plays.

Vancouver improved to 43-23-3 with its seventh consecutive home-ice win and remained five points clear of second-place Colorado Avalanche, who beat Dallas 5-3 in an earlier game.

The Canucks also ended Calgary's season-high four-game win streak and left the Flames a point out of a playoff spot with a 34-25-9 record.

It was the second home-ice win in two nights for the Canucks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KATE ZULU
42D

Tim Hortons Brier **Alberta takes the trophy**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta's Kevin Koe, Blake MacDonald, Carter Rycroft and Nolan Thiessen, left to right, celebrate their Brier victory over Ontario in Halifax last night. Alberta won 6-5 in an extra end.

Blue Jays close in on Cuban: Report

MLB The Toronto Blue Jays are close to signing 21-year-old Cuban defector Adeinis Hechavarria for a $10-million US bonus that would tie him to the team for four years, according to George King in yesterday's edition of the New York Post.

The free-spending Yankees were considered front-runners for the shortstop but, according to King, Hechavarria's mind was changed because of the reported contract extension being negotiated by New York captain Derek Jeter.

The Jays have been looking for an everyday shortstop since Alex Gonzalez departed the scene in the winter of 2001.

"I can't get into specifics, but everyone knows we've been looking for young, talented players, especially in the middle infield," Toronto GM Alex Anthopoulos said. "We've been trying to get a shortstop, adding more depth and getting more prospects. We need to be involved in more of those guys and evaluating them."

Hechavarria, who is six-foot-one, 170 pounds, is being compared to Alfonso Soriano. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

LINDSAY PERRY
21J

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

VANCOUVER 3 Calgary 1
N.Y. Islanders 4 Toronto 1
Colorado 5 Dallas 3
Nashville 3 Los Angeles 2
N.Y. Rangers 3 Philadelphia 1
Phoenix 3 Atlanta 2 (SO)
Pittsburgh 2 Tampa Bay 1
Washington 4 Chicago 3 (OT)
Minnesota 4 St. Louis 2
Anaheim 4 San Jose 2

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Miami 104 Philadelphia 91
Milwaukee 98 Indiana 94
Oklahoma City 119 Utah 111
Phoenix 120 New Orleans 106
Sacramento 114 Minnesota 100

Sports in brief

NFL LaDainian Tomlinson is bolting for the Big Apple. Tomlinson's agent, Tom Condon, said yesterday that the New York Jets signed the former Chargers running back to a two-year contract. The Jets confirmed that they have agreed to a deal, adding the aging star to the NFL's top-ranked rushing offence last season.

NFL Brady Quinn will get a chance to start over in Denver. Whether he'll get to start is up in the air. The Broncos acquired the former first-round draft pick from the Cleveland Browns for fullback Peyton Hillis, a 2011 sixth-round draft pick and a conditional pick in 2012. The teams announced the trade yesterday and said the deal is pending physicals.

NBA Boston's Glen Davis denies he intentionally tried to hurt Shaquille O'Neal in a game earlier this season, calling the accusations "crazy." O'Neal is expected to miss the rest of Cleveland's regular season after tearing a ligament in his thumb when Davis blocked his shot in a game in Boston on Feb. 25. After the block, replays seemed to catch Davis squeezing O'Neal's hand on Cleveland's next possession.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Laptops save energy
Are you looking into buying a new computer? Choose a laptop — it uses about six times less electricity than your traditional desktop, according to The Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Chilling effect

Chill is a critical survey of climate change by a committed environmentalist and scientist. Based on extensive research, it reveals a disturbing collusion of interests responsible for creating a distorted understanding of changes in global climate. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Going green for greenbacks

BEN KNIGHT
for Metro Canada

Taking out the trash has gotten complicated. Different bins, different pick-up days. Wouldn't it be nice if someone actually paid you to do this stuff?

For more than a million households in the United States and Great Britain, somebody does.

RecycleBank is an incentive points program that collects recycling curbside, weighs it, and assigns points that are redeemable for discounts with local merchants.

"It's a win, win, win," says Atul Nanda, president of RecycleBank's Canadian division. "We're increasing diversion in our cities, increasing economic stimulus for the stores, and providing value-added incentive for people to increase their environmental behavior."

The program is not available in Canada quite yet, but is now running in 25 American states. Pilot programs already exist in Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Houston and Atlanta.

"We've been in discussions with several cities in Canada," Nanda says. "At this point, we don't have a firm date, but we're going to continue our negotiations. The areas we've looked at have been in Ontario, as well as on the west coast."

Recyclebank got some significant acknowledgement in 2009, when the company was named a United Nations Environment Program Champions of the Earth.

"To date, the material recycled by the households we service has enabled RecycleBank to save cities tens of millions of dollars annually in landfill disposal fees, save over 1.5 million trees, and save millions of gallons of oil," company founder Ron Gonen said in his U.N. acceptance speech.

"We have over 2,500 partners," Nanda notes. "That's larger than virtually every other loyalty program out there. We have a very robust partner list. We are also expanding our services to be more than just recycling diversion. We have an electronics e-waste program. We're also partnered in with eBay to help incentify people for reducing."

Having recently crossed the million-home threshold, RecycleBank is aiming for sustained growth in Canada..

"I'd like to think that in three years we'll be in at least half of Canada, as well as the majority of the states," Nanda says. "Projections are very difficult to make, but based on our rapid growth so far, I think it's only going to accelerate, eventually reaching 10 or 20-million households."

Find out more

- You can find out more at recyclebank.com

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Applications to Ontario universities rise among secondary students
The Ontario Universities' Application Centre released its March undergraduate application statistics yesterday, showing a 2.6 per cent increase in applications among high school students compared to March 2009 figures. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

UBC tops Webometrics ranking

The University of British Columbia is the highest-ranking Canadian institution in Cybermetrics Labs' biannual Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, which measures universities' performance and impact through their online presence. UBC placed 35th overall. The other Canadian universities to make the top 100 are uToronto (36), SFU (61), uAlberta (67), uMontréal (75), McGill (78), and uWaterloo (97). METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

More and more workers bringing their work home

SYLVIA PUTZ
for Metro Canada

Bringing work home regularly from the office is something many of us do—about 50 per cent, according to a recent University of Toronto work-life study. And not surprisingly, it intrudes into our personal lives.

"Nearly half the population reports that people bring work home 'sometimes' or 'frequently,' which is particularly concerning given that the negative health impacts of an imbalance between work life and private life are well documented," said University of Toronto sociology professor and lead researcher Scott Schieman.

Schieman and his colleagues measured the extent to which work was interfering with personal time using data from a national survey of 1,800 workers. They found it to be high among several types of workers, including those employed in "high-status" areas, and those who work in stressful workplaces.

The high-status workers reporting interference are ones with job authority, high job skills, high personal earnings, and decision-making latitude. These are people who are more likely to be university or college-educated, or to be professionals, such as lawyers or doctors.

"People who are well-educated, professionals and those with job-related resources report that their work interferes with their personal lives more frequently, reflecting what we refer to as "the stress of higher status."

In fact, a high-status worker who puts in long hours (50 hours or more per week) and has some or complete control over their work schedule is associated even more strongly with work interference at home.

Bringing home a better balance

- Look after your health first. Get enough sleep, eat regularly and choose healthy food options, take time out for relaxation and exercise at least three times a week;
- Manage your time more effectively by creating to-do lists, prioritizing tasks, and setting time limits;
- Learn to say no;
- Separate work and family life.

To obtain a better work-life balance, one should always separate their work life and their home/family life.

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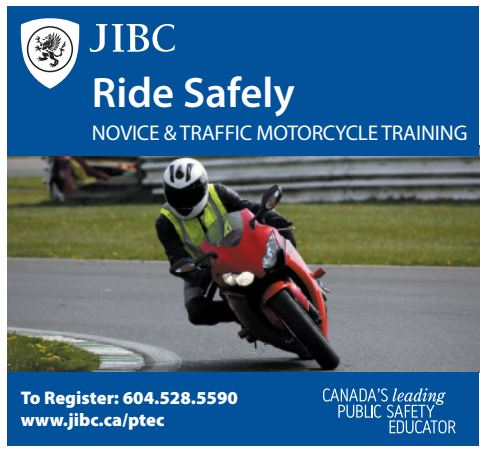

Job cuts hit UNB Fredericton
The University of New Brunswick is eliminating nine jobs at its Fredericton campus due to shortfalls in the school's operating budget. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Many workers checking Smart Phones while driving: Study

While smart phones have made it easier for workers to stay connected to the office, they may not be a good idea for every commute.

According to a new CareerBuilder survey, more than one-half (54 per cent) of workers who have a smart phone or similar device said they check it when driving a vehicle. Comparing industries, sales workers (66 per cent) used their smart phones while driving more than any other group surveyed, followed by 59 per cent of professional and business services workers and 50 per cent of healthcare workers.

Some workers admit they may be risking safety on the road to check their phones because they feel pressured to do so. Twenty-one per cent of workers say they check their mobile device every time it vibrates or beeps and 18 per cent report they are required by their company to be accessible beyond office hours via mobile device. Also, 14 per cent of workers said they feel obligated to constantly stay in touch with work because of the current tough economy.

In addition to driving, workers with smart phones said they are checking in with the office on their smart phones from virtually anywhere and everywhere, including:

- During a meal;
- While in the bathroom;
- Lying in bed at night;
- On a date;
- At church;

"It is challenging for workers to maintain a good work/life balance when they are constantly connected to the office," said Rosemary Haefner, vice-president of human resources for CareerBuilder. "The lines between work and life can be very blurry these days — 17 per cent of workers said they feel like their work day never ends. To reduce burnout and avoid potentially risky behaviour, workers should allot technology-free time when away from work."

Here's some advice:

- **Turn off your smart phone when driving:** Not only is it illegal to use your phone without a hands free device in some provinces, but using your mobile phone while driving is dangerous to you and others on the road.
- **Set priorities for outside of work:** Twenty-three per cent of workers who are required to be accessible beyond office hours report that being too connected has caused issues or arguments with their friends and family.
- **Have a back-up plan in place:** If you anticipate being needed outside of the office, plan to have an out-of-office message or voicemail up, or leave contact information for others familiar with your area of the business. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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FSIN chiefs agree to FNUC restructuring
At their assembly last Tuesday, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations chiefs agreed to a new management structure for the First Nations University of Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ask the BlackBerry guru

When anyone in Darci LaRocque's family got a gift that required assembly — a fish tank, a piece of electronics — she'd always be the one to put it together.

Her technical prowess showed up again when, as an adult, she worked at a bank and showed all her coworkers how to better use their computers' software.

When the bank got bought out by a larger one, she took a buyout and went back to college to study computer systems management.

After graduation, LaRocque — who is 45 now and was in her 30s when she changed careers — got hired by Vancouver Coastal Health in its information technology department. She enjoyed implementing new hardware and software, but not leaving staff to learn things on their own. "The training was scant, if you gave any at all."

The Lowdown

Job title: BlackBerry trainer
Salary: $100,000 plus
Education/training: Computer and IT experience, BlackBerry training certificate
Best Part of the Job: "The people I meet and the satisfaction of knowing their next trip won't cost them three grand."
Worst Part of the Job: "How fast the technology changes."

She helped the company set up its executives on BlackBerrys in 2001. But everyone had questions. "I was inundated every time I left my office with 'How do you do this?'" recalls LaRocque. A year later, she booked a boardroom and invited the 400 users of BlackBerrys at the organization to a lunch-and-learn session.

She was shocked when 200 said they'd like to come.

LaRocque began running classes every two weeks. "They were full classes and everyone raved about it."

In 2007, convinced that training on the mobile device was so badly in need elsewhere as well, LaRocque quit her job and started Swirl Solutions out of her home.

Through her contacts, LaRocque soon found businesses to hire her for two- or three-hour workshops on basic, advanced and money-saving BlackBerry skills training.

She spends her days teaching around Vancouver, but also travels to cities like Toronto and Chicago. Most of her sessions are offered through workplaces, but she's doing her first open-to the-public course in Vancouver this April.

She's also started offering webinars on her website. And when LaRocque is not teaching, she's keeping up-to-date on all the latest in BlackBerry technology.

That means reading news on the web, checking out apps (with upwards of 800 of them, she admits she can't learn them all), and reading manuals, which she actually enjoys.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

Have any BlackBerry questions, Darci LaRocque knows the answers.

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English as a Second Language (ESL) Wednesday, Mar. 17, 6:30 p.m. – room 1227	Broadway
ESL Homefront Learning – volunteer tutoring Wednesday, Mar. 17, 7 p.m. – room 3701	Broadway
English for Health Sciences Thursday, Mar. 18, 6:30 p.m. – room 1212	Broadway
Culinary Arts Friday, Mar. 19, 9:30 a.m. – room 305B	Downtown

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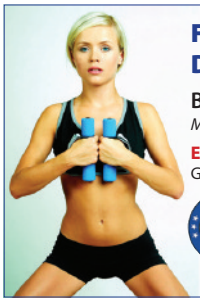
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Outrageous interview mistakes revealed

With competition hot for open positions, the pressure is on for job seekers to have flawless interview skills. Sometimes that pressure can cause candidates to make unusual, and sometimes unfavorable, interview mistakes. A new CareerBuilder survey of more than 2,700 hiring managers reveals the outrageous and common mistakes that some candidates have made in job interviews.

When asked for the most unusual blunders they'd encountered while interviewing candidates, hiring managers reported the following:

- Candidate wore a business suit with flip flops.
- Candidate asked if the interviewer wanted to meet for a drink after.
- Candidate had applied for an accounting job, yet said he was "bad at managing money."
- Candidate ate food in the employee break room after the interview.
- Candidate recited poetry.
- Candidate applying for a customer service job said "I don't really like working with people."
- Candidate had to go immediately to get his dog that had gotten loose in the parking lot.
- Candidate looked at the ceiling during the entire interview.
- Candidate used Dungeons and Dragons as an example of teamwork.
- Candidate filed fingernails.

"With heightened competition for open positions in today's economy, it's important for candidates to put their best foot forward in an interview," said Rosemary Haefner, vice-president of human resources for CareerBuilder. "You want to stand out for the right reasons. Candidates should stay positive, focus on their strengths and be prepared on how to best sell their skill set."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Interview tips

- Stay positive: No matter how tempting it is, don't say negative things about a previous employer, regardless of how the job ended.
- Research, research, research: When you walk into an interview knowledgeable about the company, the role and recent news in that industry, you show the hiring manager you value their time and that you want to be part of the organization.
- Keep it professional, not personal: Don't let business decorum disappear even if the interview is in a casual setting.

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Trading Places

Ryan Reynolds and Jason Bateman will switch bodies in a new buddy comedy movie. The pair has signed to play a family man and his lazy pal in The Change-Up — written by the scribes behind The Hangover. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Dance partner

Dancing with the Stars has imported a new professional dancer from Down Under to team up with Pamela Anderson. Damian Whitewood has joined Dancing's 10th season. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Stooges ready for rock hall

Iggy Pop was starting to feel like the Susan Lucci of rock 'n' roll.

Iggy Pop

Just as the veteran soap actress believed she might never win a Daytime Emmy, the godfather of punk was certain his groundbreaking band The Stooges wouldn't ever earn a spot in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Well, as it turns out, Lucci got her gold statue on the 19th try. And Iggy and the boys finally are getting their shot to search and destroy at today's induction ceremony, on their eighth attempt.

"At least I won't be nominated anymore," Pop said, laughing. He believed The Stooges never would get into the Rock Hall "right up until the day before somebody called me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Haim death probed

The name of the late Toronto-born actor Corey Haim was found on a fraudulent prescription for a powerful painkiller that authorities said Friday was obtained through a major drug ring.

A funeral for actor Corey Haim will take place in Toronto this week.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown's office said records of the prescription in the name of the former teen heartthrob were found during an investigation of the ring that illegally obtained prescription pads and used the stolen identities of doctors to fill them out.

"Corey Haim's death is yet another tragedy linked to the growing problem of prescription drug abuse," Brown said in a statement. "This problem is increasingly linked to criminal organizations, like the illegal and massive prescription drug ring under investigation."

Los Angeles County coroner's officials, however, said they have not yet determined what killed the 38-year-old Haim last week. The actor is expected to be buried at a private funeral in Toronto, which could take place as early as today.

State law enforcement authorities said they were investigating the drug ring and how the name of Haim, who battled addiction for years, appeared on the prescription.

Javier Salaiz, an investigator with the state attorney general's office, said authorities have not yet confirmed that Haim actually filled the prescription or if someone was using his name to acquire the prescription.

However, a person familiar with the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is ongoing said Haim may have been doctor shopping.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said four prescription drug bottles bearing the actor's name were found in the apartment where he collapsed, but all those drugs had been provided by a doctor who had been treating the actor. The coroner's office has declined to state what medications were discovered, but said no illegal drugs were found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Funeral costs

- Corey Haim's family started a collection to help pay for a funeral for the former teen star, but it appears they won't have to worry about it. Memorabilia company Startifacts has agreed to cover the cost of the funeral, headstone and transport using profits from Haim memorabilia the company is auctioning off, according to TMZ.

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That Bieber's so tweet

Canadian teen singer dominates Twitter conversation

Canadian teen heartthrob Justin Bieber is the most talked about person on Twitter, and nearly the most talked about topic, period.

Bieber-mania is growing on Twitter and is creating a deafening crescendo of chatter that is rising above virtually every other conversation on the popular social media site, which sees 50 million tweets posted daily.

Last week, the 16-year-old pop singer from Stratford, Ont., was the No. 1 most-tweeted about topic, according to the tracking website whatthetrend.com, and this week he fell just short of the top spot and settled for second behind a little event called the Oscars.

Bieber has been on Twitter almost a year but it wasn't until January that his popularity growth really started registering, said Ingo Muschenetz of What The Trend.

He started out the year around seventh in the weekly Twitter reports and now is consistently dominating the list of the most talked about people.

"He is very, very popular on Twitter, he ranks No. 1, easy," Muschenetz said.

"He's certainly No. 1 unless something else comes along, like when the earthquake in Haiti happened that took the No. 1 spot for a few weeks.

As of mid-Friday, Bieber was ranked among the Top 140 most popular Twitter users but his numbers of followers are multiplying daily.

He averages about 11,000 new followers every day, which on Friday helped him pass the Twitter accounts of the influential tech blogs TechCrunch and Silicon Alley Insider.

However, it would take months for Bieber to approach the Top 10, an elite company of Twitter users with more three million followers, such as Lady Gaga, John Mayer, Oprah Winfrey, Barack Obama, Ellen DeGeneres, Britney Spears and top dog Ashton Kutcher.

Bieber may be far behind that group with almost 1.37 million followers but he's got a shot at eventually catching them, said Muschenetz.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Last week, Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber was the No. 1 most-tweeted about topic, according to whatthetrend.com.

On Twitter

- You can follow Justin Bieber at @justinbieber.

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/15/10	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	18 to Life (N)	Little Mosque	Hockeyville on CBC: 2010		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Hiccups (N)	Dan for Mayor	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami "Hostile Takeover"		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	20/20 Behind the scenes of "The Bachelor." (N) (CC)				P3	Diya	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Black Hole" (N) (CC)		24 "Day 8: 3:00AM- 4:00AM"		Brothers & Sisters (N) (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Castle "A Rose for Everafter"		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Law & Order "Innocence" (N)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	How I Met	How I Met	Trauma "Protocol" (N) (CC)		Chuck (N) (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Life Unexpected (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	Engagement	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami "Hostile Takeover"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Trauma "Protocol" (N) (CC)		Law & Order "Innocence" (N)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Supernanny "Martinez Family"		How Clean Is	How Clean	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Confidential
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	20/20 Behind the scenes of "The Bachelor." (N) (CC)				Castle "A Rose for Everafter"		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	The Next Karate Kid ★★ (1994, Action) Hilary Swank.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				Michael Bolton at the Royal Albert Hall			Rock and Roll Classics	
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Black Hole" (N) (CC)		24 "Day 8: 3:00AM- 4:00AM"		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Detroit: Remember When II		Detroit -The Jewish Community			Brain Fitness 2: Sight and Sound			Brain Fitness
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Street Court	Cold Files
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Life Unexpected (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		KTLA 5 News at 10 (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	To Be Announced		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		To Be Announced		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Red Bull Air Race Preview		Hockey	UFC Countdown		MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Calgary Flames.				SportsCentre	Boxing Yuriorkis Gamboa vs. Rogers Mtagwa.			SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Destination Truth (CC)		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Ghost Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	(6:15) WWE Monday Night RAW (CC)			Score Now	WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	NASCAR	What's Deal?	Car Crazy	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame		Racing Chef	NASCAR	NASCAR
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol Brasileño		Off the Pitch	Gol TV News	Off the Pitch	Game Cap	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	iCarly "iKiss"	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo! The Mystery Begins (2009) Robbie Amell. (CC)				Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Suite Life	Sonny-Chance	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Little Bear	Toopy	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Landscape	Art of the Heist Rubens.		Simon Schama's Power of Art		Saved Geometry		Rainwolves
	575	583	20 CMT	Take Me Home: The John Denver Story ★★ (2000, Docudrama) Chad Lowe.					Take Me Home: The John Denver Story ★★ (2000)			
	570	580	24 MM	Love Court	Love Court	UR11		Secret Life of American Teen		America's Best Dance Crew		Video on Trial
	600	564	25 H&G	House Hunt	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Home to Flip	Bang, Buck	For Rent	Marriage	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Hoarders "Bob and Richard"		Paranormal	Paranormal	(:01) Intervention "Sharon"		(:01) Intervention "Amy W."		(:01) Hoarders
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:00) TNA Wrestling (N)		(:08) Players	God of War III	(:08) DEA		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Mysteries
	521	560	24 TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Our Little Life	Our Little Life	Ultimate Cake Off (CC)		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Our Little Life
	616	522	93 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Love Notes (2007, Drama) Laura Leighton, Antonio Cupo. (CC)				Bones (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	(6:00) Caesar and Cleopatra		Law & Order "Deadbeat"		Without a Trace "Gung-Ho"		Caesar and Cleopatra (2009, Comedy) (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Love Inc.	Love Inc.	ET Canada	Whatever	Real Housewives of New York		Real Housewives, Orange		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Motor City Motors (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters Birds in a truck.		Motor City Motors		Dirty Jobs
	522	506	44 HIS	(6:00) Death or Canada (CC)		Greatest Tank Battles (CC)		Lost Worlds "The Vikings"		Shockwave (CC)		Tank Battles
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Empathy (2007) (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Frozen"		Star Trek: Next Generation		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Empathy (CC)
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Re-Vamped (CC)		Wipeout (Season Premiere) (N)		Wipeout (N) (CC)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Prod. Parker
	603	561	52 FN	Pitchin' In	Glutton	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Diners, Drive	Unwrapped	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		Pitchin' In
	-	-	53 AMC	Something	Rain Man ★★★★ (1988, Comedy-Drama) Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise. (CC)					Mr. Mom ★★ (1983) Michael Keaton. (CC)		
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Doug Stanhope: No Refunds		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Linewatch (2008) (CC)		Spartacus: Blood and Sand		Diary-Call Girl	Diary-Call Girl	(:05) You Don't Mess With the Zohan ★★		
	581	566	101 MTV	My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	MTV Live	Sex News	The Real World (CC)		My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Unscripted	Archaeologist	Poltergeist: The Legacy		Cutthroat Island ★★ (1995, Adventure) Geena Davis, Matthew Modine. (CC)				
	-	-	105 MUL	My Queen	Immortal	Lying Low		Simply the	Pinoy Buzz	Orient	News	Patrol World

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Boyle's burglar caught?

Police have arrested a 16-year-old male in connection with the break-in at Susan Boyle's home in Scotland, BBC News is reporting. The singer got a scare when she arrived home on Jan. 26 to find the uninvited guest. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Jonesing for a Jonas

HAVEN'T YOU LISTENED TO TAYLOR SWIFT'S ALBUM? Demi Lovato has confirmed longstanding rumours she's dating Joe Jonas, calling the Jonas Brothers star "perfect" and "incredible," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

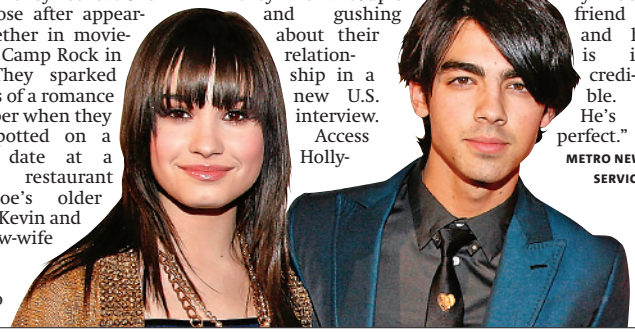
The Disney sensations grew close after appearing together in movie-musical Camp Rock in 2008. They sparked rumours of a romance in October when they were spotted on a double date at a Toronto restaurant with Joe's older brother Kevin and his now-wife Danielle Deleasa.

Lovato dismissed reports of a relationship back in November, insisting they "don't have feelings for each other in that way."

But she has now come clean about her romance with Jonas — admitting they are a couple and gushing about their relationship in a new U.S. interview. Access Hollywood's Billy Bush asked, "So you guys went from boyfriend-girlfriend to best friends?"

Lovato said, "No, kind of the opposite."

She added, "Yeah (we are dating), he is my best friend and he is incredible. He's perfect." METRO NEWS SERVICES



The kids are tech savvy

SO HE'S AN INTERNATIONAL ACTION MOVIE HERO, NO BIGGIE Matt Damon may be famous around the world, but it isn't that way at home.

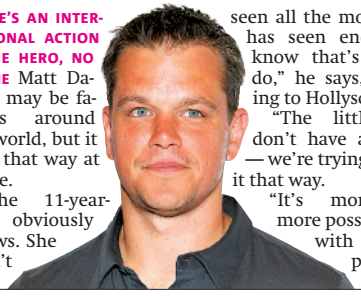
"The 11-year-old obviously knows. She hasn't seen all the movies but has seen enough to know that's what I do," he says, according to Hollyscoop.

"The little ones don't have any idea — we're trying to keep it that way.

"It's more and more possible now with the prevalence of video cameras and technology, iPhones and BlackBerrys.

"Kids are used to seeing their own images on screens.

"So when they see me on a screen, it kind of makes sense for them, 'Yeah, he's on that TV and I'm on this laptop.'" METRO WORLD NEWS



Everyone take a chill pill

BUT TO BE FAIR, A PRECEDENT HAS BEEN SET HERE, LADY Jennifer Aniston insists she isn't dating The Bounty Hunter co-star Gerard Butler, and she finds it fascinating that people always try to link her to her co-stars.

"Gerry is lovely, he's a real nice guy," she says, according to Hollywood Grind.

"But it seems I get linked to all my co-stars. There seems to be a formula, if you make a movie together, then you must be dating in real life.

"I don't know who starts those rumours but I'm learning to ignore them."

Aniston famously dated Vince Vaughn while making and promoting The Break-Up, but split from him soon after. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

KATY PERRY used to get excited by fumigation, **ELIZABETH TAYLOR** is defending Kathy Ireland, and **JONATHAN ROSS** doesn't want to hurt his dogs.

@katyperry
When you were kid did you ever mistake those houses that had termite coverings on them... As the circus came to town? I did.

@DameElizabeth
I heard that some scum magazines, print and internet trashed Kathy Ireland on Oscar Red Carpet night. These rags said, to quote them, "She was either stoned or drunk and looked pregnant" — what???? They must be the ones on drugs.

@wossy
Are sausages bad for dogs ? We have left overs from last night — They love 'em but I heard someone tsk once when I gave a bit to Pickle.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Cause breaking up is hard to do

BUT WORKING ON THE SAME SET EVERYDAY IS EVEN HARDER After more than a year of dating happily, Jennifer Love Hewitt and Jamie Kennedy have called it quits, Hewitt's rep confirms to People magazine.

Though no other details were given, sources speculate that Kennedy's days on their series, The Ghost Whisperer, may be numbered, as Hewitt is the star and a producer on the show. METRO WORLD NEWS

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Following Wheel of Fortune at 7pm
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CBC

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Wednesday 40% Showers 10° / 4°
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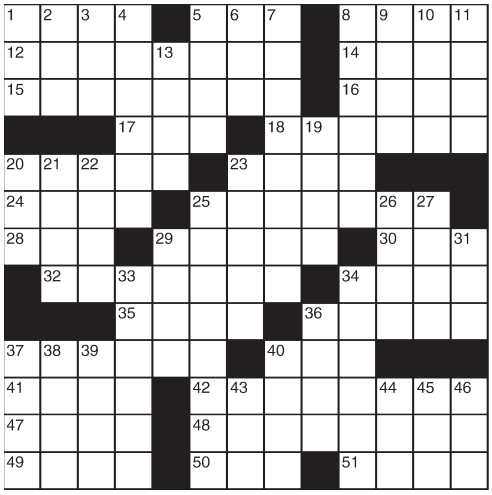
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Odds and —
5 Cigar residue
8 Campus hangout
12 Hawaiian volcano
14 — Minor (constellation)
15 Kathleen of the Obama cabinet
16 Hebrew month
17 Sternward
18 Unexpected
20 Winter garment
23 Dalmatian detail
24 Cause a surfeit
25 Ken of the Obama cabinet
28 — Aviv
29 Felonious monk in "The Da Vinci Code"
30 Ump
32 Hillary of the Obama cabinet
34 Scallopini meat
35 Rotate
36 Private journal
37 Sushi condiment
40 — -relief
41 Bottom of a boat
42 Timothy of the Obama cabinet
47 Needle case
48 Famous aria from "Carmen"
49 Spiritual discipline
50 Bath locale
51 Mormon state

DOWN

1 Type squares
2 Dundee denial
3 Fix the soundtrack
4 Furtive
5 Settled down
6 Old French coin
7 Knows what to do, maybe
8 Watch crystal, maybe
9 Language of Pakistan
10 Pronto, on a memo
11 Blowgun ammo
13 — Romeo (sports car)
19 Feathery neckwear
20 Portion (Abbr.)
21 Guinness or Baldwin
22 Hot dog holder
23 Chic shop
25 Be acceptable
26 Vicinity
27 Posterior
29 Cold-shoulder
31 Aviate
33 Roma's land
34 Hindu preserver god
36 Information
37 Curds' partner
38 Car
39 Hit hard
40 Lettuce variety
43 Water (Fr.)
44 Trawler need
45 Historic time
46 "Go, team!"

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5					1	9	4	
	4			6		5	1	
1			4					7
				9			8	6
		3				1		
8	7			2				
6					5			4
	8	5		1			2	
	2	7	3					1

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

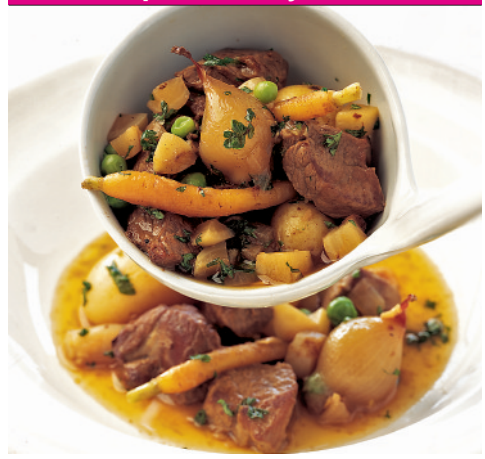
5	4	9	1	7	2	3	8	6
8	2	3	6	5	9	1	4	7
6	1	7	3	8	4	2	5	9
4	8	1	9	6	3	7	2	5
9	7	6	2	4	5	8	3	1
2	3	5	8	1	7	6	9	4
7	9	8	4	3	6	5	1	2
1	6	4	5	2	8	9	7	3
3	5	2	7	9	1	4	6	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU." IT'S MORE LIKE A BUNCH OF LITTLE ONES ARE.
YOU HAVE A VIRUS!
YOU'VE BEEN HACKED!

Metro Recipe of the Day



Irish Stew

INGREDIENTS:

2 tsp olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
500 g lean boneless leg of lamb, trimmed and cut into cubes
1/2 cup dry white wine
2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
1 bay leaf
1 sprig fresh thyme
1 kg baby new potatoes, scrubbed
250 g baby carrots
1 cup peeled pearl onions
1 small turnip, diced
1 cup frozen peas
2 tbsp chopped parsley
Salt and pepper.

METHOD:

11. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Heat oil in large flameproof casserole, add chopped onion and garlic and cook, stirring, until softened, 5 minutes. Add lamb and cook until browned on all sides, 5 minutes.

2. Add wine, broth, bay leaf, thyme, potatoes, carrots and pearl onions. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to boil, then cover and transfer to oven. Cook 1 hour.

3. Add turnip and stir. Cover again and continue cooking until meat and vegetables are tender, 30 to 45 minutes, adding peas 10 minutes before end of cooking time.

4. Add parsley and stir well. Taste and season again if needed. Serve hot.

SERVES 6

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your nerves may be a bit on edge today but it won't be long before the crisis passes. Eventually will wonder how you managed to get so worked up over nothing.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
What you want you cannot have and what you have you don't really want. The grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
We all have big ideas but some big ideas are best left on the drawing board. Today there is a smaller idea that will bring you all the rewards you desire.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
What catches your eye today may look like the answer to your prayers. By all means start something new but make sure you are able to finish it.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Today's new moon in the wealth area of your chart means you need to get your hands on some serious money.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A new moon in your opposite sign of Pisces suggests that your most important relationship will reach new levels of understanding over the next 24 hours.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Something to do with your working routine is about to be change but it won't be that bad. Why? Because you know how to adapt.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Whatever your desires and your fantasies may be you are encouraged to indulge them to the full today. Live for the moment.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You are smart enough to realize there are times when it is necessary to let others win, and this appears to be one of them.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Today's new moon will endow you with all the chat and charm you need to win new friends and influence people.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
The planets are sending you this important message: what you took for granted in the past cannot be taken for granted in the future.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A new moon in your birth sign makes this the perfect day to start being that person you always wanted to be. You WILL succeed now.

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Nike Master Control
Free • Looking to improve your soccer skills this year? This elite Nike training app features instructional videos from FC Barcelona coaches. Get tips on ball control, see drills the pros use and even learn some of their signature moves.

Maclean's
Free • The only national news magazine now fits in your pocket. Read selected articles, opinions and blogs, and get the Maclean's perspective on all the issues facing the country.

CBC Hockey
Free • The home of hockey brings you live box scores for the whole NHL schedule, as well as standings and stats for every team and player. Now you can always be on top of your game.

Avis
Free • Get the car you want, when you want it from the car rental service that "tries harder." Easily check real-time availability, make on-the-fly reservations and enjoy access to special rates.

Disney
Free • The largest and most loved entertainment company in the world brings you games, videos, a radio station and more. You can even create a photo of yourself with favourite characters from the Disney movies.

Air Canada
Free • The country's largest airline, at your fingertips. Receive notifications about any changes to your flight, check in and choose your seats – all before you get to the airport.

NFB Films
Free • The National Film Board brings you hundreds of movies – for free. Watch award-winning animations and documentaries right now, or store on your iPhone and view off-line.

LEGO
Free • Enjoy the iconic building toy right on your iPhone. Take a picture, tap the screen and see the image transform itself into Lego bricks before your eyes. Save to your photo library or send to friends and relatives.

The North Face
Free • Before you hit the slopes, pocket this comprehensive resort guide from The North Face. Get trail maps, forecasts, check current snow conditions – from St. Anton to Zermatt.

L'Oréal Paris
Free • Want to know what colours suit your skin tone, or how to apply the perfect lipstick? It's all here on your iPhone. Just tap for make-up tips, skincare information and video demonstrations.

eBay
Free • Put the world's top online marketplace on your iPhone. Search for new stuff and place that last-minute bid even when you're nowhere near your computer.

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Free • Listen to CBC Radio on your iPhone. Tap into 19 live streams and over 60 popular programs on-demand. Browse archived episodes and create a favourites list for quick access to the programs you love.

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Bell | iPhone 3GS

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